



General Assembly

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Amendment

LCO No. 3154

SB0033703154SD0

Offered by:
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 337

File No. 215

Cal. No. 163

***"AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
THE FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE."***

1 After section 1, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
3 Services, within available appropriations, shall continue to operate the
4 Fatherhood Initiative. Said program shall promote the positive
5 involvement and interaction of fathers with their children with an
6 emphasis on children eligible or formerly eligible for services funded
7 by the temporary assistance for needy families block grant and shall
8 identify those services that effectively encourage and enhance
9 responsible and skillful parenting and those services that increase the
10 ability of fathers to meet the financial and medical needs of their
11 children through employment services and child support enforcement
12 measures. The objectives of the program shall be to: (1) Promote public
13 education concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of
14 fatherhood; (2) assist men in preparation for the legal, financial and
15 emotional responsibilities of fatherhood; (3) promote the establishment

16 of paternity at childbirth; (4) encourage fathers, regardless of marital
17 status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of
18 their children; (5) establish support mechanisms for fathers in their
19 relationship with their children, regardless of their marital and
20 financial status; and (6) integrate state and local services available for
21 families.

22 (b) There is established, within the Department of Social Services, a
23 Fatherhood Council. The Commissioner of Social Services shall
24 convene and chair the Fatherhood Council. The Fatherhood Council
25 shall (1) develop a comprehensive plan to promote the positive
26 involvement and interaction of fathers with their children, (2) conduct
27 an evaluation of state programs, government policies and community
28 initiatives relative to fatherhood, and (3) advise the Commissioner of
29 Social Services on the development of a fatherhood research and
30 demonstration program relative to design, implementation and
31 evaluation pursuant to this section. The membership of the council
32 shall include, but not be limited to: The Commissioner of Social
33 Services; the Labor Commissioner; the Commissioner of Education; the
34 Commissioner of Correction; the Commissioner of Children and
35 Families; the Director of the Office of Alternative Sanctions; the
36 chancellor of the regional community-technical colleges, or their
37 respective designees; one representative with expertise in the area of
38 legal assistance to low-income populations; one representative of the
39 Family ReEntry Program; one representative of the Connecticut
40 Employment and Training Commission; one representative of a
41 regional workforce development board; one or more representatives of
42 the clergy; one member with expertise in family relations; one or more
43 representatives of a local fatherhood program; one member with
44 expertise in male psychology and health; an individual representing
45 the interests of custodial parents; an individual representing the
46 interests of noncustodial parents; an individual representing the
47 interests of children; one representative with expertise in the area of
48 domestic violence; and one representative with expertise in child
49 development, all of whom shall be designated by the Commissioner of

50 Social Services. The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek the
51 advice and participation of any person, organization or state or federal
52 agency the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions
53 of this section. Said commissioner may designate a working group
54 from among the members of the council to carry out specific duties
55 required under this section. The Commissioner of Social Services shall
56 seek funds from private and federal sources to fund the Fatherhood
57 Council and the Fatherhood Initiative.

58 (c) The Fatherhood Council shall establish a comprehensive plan for
59 the implementation of the Fatherhood Initiative and the research and
60 demonstration program. The plan may include, but shall not be limited
61 to, the following: (1) A planning process that gathers input from the
62 public through public hearings or other means; (2) the establishment of
63 an inventory and evaluation of state and federal programs, community
64 initiatives, government policies and any other services identified that
65 encourage and enhance responsible and skillful parenting through
66 positive involvement and interaction with fathers and those services
67 that increase the ability of fathers to meet the financial and medical
68 needs of their children. In establishing such inventory and evaluation,
69 the council may collect and assess data to determine the scope of
70 concerns, review fatherhood programs in other jurisdictions, identify
71 private, state and federal funding opportunities or collect any other
72 information the council deems necessary; (3) the identification of the
73 services that can be provided to fathers including, but not limited to,
74 employment services, parenting skills, teen pregnancy prevention
75 services, educational services, child support enforcement services,
76 paternity establishment services, custody and visitation services,
77 conflict management services, family mediation and any other
78 community-based support programs providing assistance to fathers;
79 (4) the identification of the characteristics that will be used to target the
80 population to be served in each demonstration program; (5) a system
81 that establishes mechanisms for voluntary and mandatory access to the
82 services provided in the program for those individuals identified for
83 participation including procedures for establishing and assessing the

84 eligibility of an individual for the services provided in the program
85 and procedures for providing guidance to family support magistrates
86 ordering a noncustodial parent's participation in the program in lieu
87 of, or in addition to, a child or medical support obligation; and (6) the
88 identification of a case management system for the full range of
89 services offered in the program including mechanisms for referring
90 program participants to community-based support programs. On or
91 before December 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the council shall
92 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
93 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
94 of matters relating to human services on its activities pursuant to this
95 section."